

WORSHIP GUIDE for JANUARY 16, 2022

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Hi, Friends! I hope this note finds you well. We're continuing with our hybrid model of worship this week, so please feel free to join in-person, masked, in the sanctuary, or from home via Facebook Live. We continue to evaluate the safety of our gathering using the online tool I shared about in a letter last week. It says we're safe this week; we'll be running the numbers each week. (<http://fbcmac.org/covid-19-safety-update/>)

However you choose to join in, we're grateful for your presence with and commitment to this community. In this season of Epiphany, we're exploring some of the big questions of our faith together, and this Sunday we're taking a look at the Trinity. (Remember at the beginning, when I promised no answers? That was for weeks like this one. 😊) If you're joining from home, you might want to set your space with anything that reminds you of mystery or connection...

Stay safe, and well, and curious, friends, and take good care.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude - Geoff Clayton, Pianist

Welcome - Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *Come Now, Almighty God* (NC #275)

- Doug Verigin, Dave Ferry, Joel Kiff, Geoff Clayton

Come now, Almighty God,
help us your name to laud; our songs we raise:
Ruler all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come now, Incarnate Word,
by heaven and earth adored; our prayer attend;
Come, and your people bless, and give your word success;
grant us your holiness, Savior and Friend!

Come, holy Comforter,
your sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,
never from us depart, Spirit of power!

To you, great One in Three,
eternal praises be for evermore.
Your sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer*from Central Congregational
United Church of Christ, Atlanta, Georgia*

- Rev. Mike Burr

Our Mother and Father, our Beloved Parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being, the hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children. May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven. Grant that all might have their daily needs met – that all might find gainful employment without discrimination; that all might have access to medical care without fear; that all might have their rights and lives protected, and find a loving community to belong to and call their own. Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed each other. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged others' unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear – as we forgive those who might have failed us. Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But give us courage to stand up and stand

with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time - Kathleen Verigin

Scripture: John 16:5-16

"Now I am going to the One who sent me, yet not one of you has asked, 'Where are you going?' You're sad of heart because I tell you this. Still, I must tell you the truth: it is much better for you that I go. If I fail to go, the Spirit will never come to you, whereas if I go, I will send her to you.

When she comes, she will prove the world wrong about sin, about justice, and about judgment. About sin - in that they refuse to believe in me; about justice - because I go to Abba God and you will see me no more; about judgment - for the ruler of this world has been condemned. I have much more to tell you, but you can't bear to hear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth. She won't speak on her own initiative, rather, she'll speak only what she hears, and she'll announce to you things that are yet to come.

In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me, for she will take what is mine and reveal it to you. Everything that Abba God has belongs to me. This is why I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you. Within a short time you won't see me, but soon after you'll see me again."

Sermon: "Questions About the Trinity" - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Testimony: Bill Apel

Response Song: Holy, Holy, Holy (NC #277)

- Doug Verigin, Dave Ferry, Joel Kiff, Geoff Clayton

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,
from the beginning, God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
You alone are holy, You alone are worthy,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury
Visual Meditation with images from
Joani Jernstedt, Walt Parry, and David Hallett

Special Music: Give Yourself to Love by Kate Wolf
– Doug Verigin, Dave Ferry, Joel Kiff, Geoff Clayton

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: The Peace Song (Blue Book)
– Doug Verigin, Dave Ferry, Joel Kiff, Geoff Clayton
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.

With God as Creator, children all are we.
Let me walk with my sibling in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Postlude – Geoff Clayton

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